

CELEBRATING LIFE IN WEST LAFAYETTE AND

LAFAYETTE

WINTER 2017

MAGAZINE

For nearly 30 years,
Sandra Peticolas has been
the heart of the holiday
classic 'The Nutcracker'

Behind the magic

LET'S GET PERSONAL
Chefs bring fine dining
to your home

**THE PERFECT TREE
IS OUT THERE**
Local growers create
holiday traditions

**STOCKING STUFFERS
THAT ROCK**
Area shops have gifts
for every sock



space by space

Where are they now?



BE OUR
HOLIDAY
GUEST

Transform an underused space to accommodate visitors

BY AMY SMITH PHOTOS PROVIDED

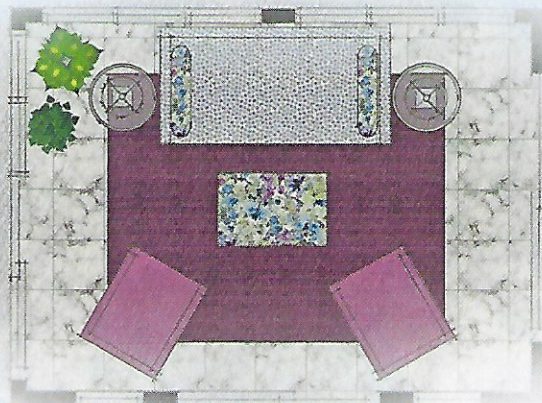
It's that time of year! As the holiday season approaches, our calendars and our homes seem to simultaneously fill up with out-of-town guests. While there are many great hotel options in Lafayette and West Lafayette, inviting guests into our homes creates a much more personal and intimate experience. It provides the opportunity to really unwind and reconnect with friends and family.

Unfortunately, hosting guests can become a challenge without a spare bedroom. Converting an existing room into a bedroom can seem like an inefficient use of space in homes that are already short on square footage, since it is generally only utilized several times a year.

We all have that room in our home that is underused. For some it is a basement or a home office; for others it might be a formal den or sunroom. Continue reading for tips on how to transform this underused space into a room that can serve your needs on a daily basis as well as comfortably accommodate guests.

The first element to consider is privacy. Even though this may be a general living space, you do not want to make guests feel as though they are sleeping in the middle of the home. The use of french doors will create privacy without disconnecting the space from the rest of the home. Many homeowners are surprised to learn that a sunroom can make a perfect multi-functional space. It is a pleasant place to be in all year, and with the proper window treatments it also can be very private for guests. Room darkening shades can be a great solution. There are many on the market today that offer excellent privacy but are discreet when not in use, therefore not obstructing the view or natural light entering the space.

Beginning this process with a space plan is crucial to creating a highly functional space that is flexible in many different situations. One should always consider not only how the space should flow on a daily basis, but also how it will function when in use as a bedroom. Specifically, consider elements such as how many people will be using this space on a daily basis and how many will be sleeping in the room when it is converted into a guest bedroom. Think about the size of the room and the scale of furniture that it can handle. When the



sleeper sofa is converted into a bed, is there a space for the ottoman or coffee table to be stored? The fewer pieces that need to be relocated the better, and this can be ensured by creating a space plan prior to furniture shopping and taking the time to think through the convertibility of the space that you are creating.

Once you have determined the type and size of furniture that this room can handle it is time to locate these pieces. Get creative and think outside the box. Traditionally, a sleeper sofa is used in this setting. This is a great option, and it has come a long way in terms of comfort and ease of use.

Consider other solutions, such as an upholstered daybed. This will appear and function as a sofa, but when purchased in the size of a standard twin-size bed it can easily be converted into a bed without moving any furniture. A storage ottoman serves as a place to store bedding so that the room is ready for visitors at all times. Placing a serving tray on the ottoman provides a sturdy surface for food and drinks when it is being utilized as a coffee table. When purchasing tables, look for pieces with drawers that offer storage for guests staying for an extended period of time.

Just about all upholstered furniture is now available in performance fabrics, which are extra-durable, stain-resistant and easy to clean. There is a lot of variety in color, texture and style, ensuring

that the furniture is comfortable and resistant to soiling and fading. While I recommend using performance fabrics in most spaces, it is especially important in spaces serving many purposes.

The size of your home should never prohibit you from opening it up to visitors. There are always ways to manipulate the space to ensure that it can accommodate your guests and your lifestyle. Consider implementing these suggestions for stress-free hosting this holiday season and beyond.

Amy Smith is an interior designer at Stephan Design, Inc., where she spends her days designing residential and business interiors. Smith obtained a bachelor of arts in interior design from Purdue University and continues her education to bring the most innovative product and design solutions to the Greater Lafayette area. Submit questions, comments and design-related topics to info@stephandesignstudio.com